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Attorney Docket No. 27585-029

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas P. Hager et al.

Serial No.: 10/611,513

Filed: July 1, 2003

For: LOW COST, HIGH PERFORMANCE, WATER-SWELLABLE
REINFORCEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS CABLE

Examiner: Jinhee J. Lee

Art Unit: 2831

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 1, 2004

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2004, Applicants submit this response to the issues raised therein.

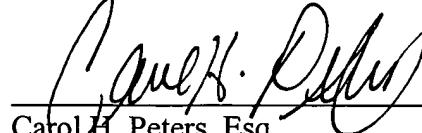
Restriction Requirement/Election of Claims

The Examiner has determined that the claims of the present application are directed to distinct inventions as follows: Group I: claims 1-19 are drawn to a flexible reinforcement member, classified in class 174, subclass 116; and Group II: claims 20-30 are drawn to a method for forming, classified in class 264; subclass 134. The Examiner has requested Applicants restrict prosecution of the present application to one of the two groups of claims pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121.

In compliance with the Examiner's requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I claims including claims 1-19 without traverse. In addition, Applicants respectfully request cancellation of the non-elected group of claims including claims 20-30.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,


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